

Iowa Communications Network

January/February 2013 Newsletter

ICN Insider



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Sellers Appointed to Commission

Mary Sellers has been appointed to serve on the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC), the governing body of the ICN. Sellers' appointment became effective on December 18.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Sellers," said Gov. Terry Branstad. "She brings guidance and management from the nonprofit sector, and will be a great addition to the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission."

Sellers currently serves as President of United Way of Central Iowa. She leads United Way's strategies to achieve substantive community impact in the priority areas of education, income and health to improve lives and build a stronger central Iowa.

Sellers earned her BA degree from the University of Florida, her MBA from the University of Iowa, and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's program for nonprofit executives. Sellers lives in Des Moines, Iowa.



Sellers' appointment by Gov. Branstad is subject to Senate confirmation. Her term will expire in April 2016. The vacancy was due to the departure of Shannon Cofield, who resigned in October after accepting a position with an authorized user of ICN services.

ICN released its Fiscal Year 2012 annual report, which outlines the activities for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. View the annual report on ICN's website at

www.icn.state.ia.us/about-us/agency_reports.



ICN Presents at Connect Iowa's Board Meeting

On November 14, Executive Director Dave Lingren spoke at the monthly meeting of the Connect Iowa Advisory Board. Lingren, a member of the board, brought everyone in attendance up-to-date on ICN's federal broadband project, the rural healthcare project, and the status regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the sale or lease of the Network (2011 House File 45). The board, which formed in July 2012, includes

members representing a variety of organizational sectors including public safety, elected officials, education, healthcare, telecommunications, state government, agriculture, county and city government, libraries, business and industry and advocacy associations. Meeting topics range from local speakers presenting on their initiatives and quarterly updates from Connected Nation.

Connect Iowa is the Iowa affiliate of the national

group Connected Nation, which was chosen as the designated broadband mapping entity for 12 states and one territory under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded Broadband Data Improvement Act. With the United States being 16th in the world¹ in broadband speed access and Iowa 34th in the nation², the national and local levels goals are to facilitate the growth of broadband and increase adoption and use.

**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

The ICN Network consists of an estimated 8,661 miles of fiber optic cable (3,400 owned by the State and 5,261 leased). The leased facilities join rural communities using private telephone providers. The fascinating element is the electronic communications between locations on the Network are private and secure. This means data travels through a closed Network, which ensures the protection of electronic information for public safety, health care, and the National Guard.

eICU Benefits Wayne County Hospital

Wayne County Hospital reopened their eICU (Electronic Intensive Care Unit) in October 2012, benefiting from a new arrangement with St. Lukes Hospital in Kansas City.

The hospital is connected to the Iowa Rural Healthcare Telecommunications Program's (IRHTP) statewide healthcare fiber optic network, which is hosted by the ICN. ICN's backbone completes the high-speed IRHTP network by providing each core site with redundant 10 gigabit connections.

Laurie Ehrich, Wayne County Hospital's Chief Communications Officer explained the numerous eICU benefits gained through the hospital's connection with the program:

1. Provides reliable real time access to patient information;
2. Offers support to local medical staff with a 24-hour remote monitoring capability;
3. Supplies early intervention opportunities;
4. Provides a higher level of care...that would normally be available only in larger hospital systems due to the level

of communication and transmission of data;

5. Decreases in transfers; patients and families are able to remain close to home.

Ehrich also added, "The eICU has enabled Wayne County Hospital to provide a higher level of quality care in our rural setting."

The partnership project with Iowa Hospital Association has connected 72 hospitals and 51 clinics. ICN is responsible for on-going maintenance, inventory control, electronics implementation and testing, orders and service turn-up.

Xpressions Users: Set Up Referral Extension

The ICN's Operator is no longer the default as the "Company Operator" for the ICN Xpressions Voicemail system. Each voicemail user should set up his or her own "Referral Extension" for their voicemail. If a user does not set up a "Referral Extension", a caller will be routed to a separate voicemail box. This message informs the caller that the user has not set up the "Referral Extension" feature, and to try to contact the office's main telephone number.

The phone referral (automatic transfer) option

is available with desk phones. This feature is often overlooked as a setting, but can be easily incorporated with voicemail.

When the referral option is setup and a caller presses the number "0" prior to hearing the section that requests the caller to leave a message, the caller is routed to the extension the voicemail box users have designated. Setting up a referral option is very important to users who receive calls from the public. If a user is out-of-the-office or a team

handles similar responsibilities, setting up the referral option, provides a caller the capability to reach another employee or your department's front office, which helps keep the caller within your agency's telephone system.

For convenience and as a reminder, the following link provides the [Siemens Xpressions voicemail instructions](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the ICN Service Desk at ICNServicedesk@iowa.gov or 515-725-4400.

Sale/Lease Request for Proposal Update

House File (HF) 45 was passed during the 2011 legislative session requiring the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the sale or lease of the network. The process must be completed by July 1, 2013. The bill requires a buyer or lessor to allow existing authorized users of the network to continue use at a lower overall long-term cost. A draft RFP document was provided to the Governor's Office for review to ensure that ICN has followed all laws

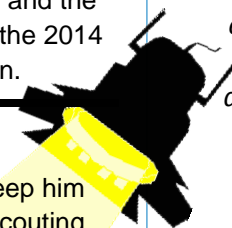
according to the Iowa Code during the process of writing the RFP. ICN incorporated the assumptions listing created and considered in the RFP Implementation Team (RIT) meetings and determined that there was no further business requiring discussion by the 13-member group of stakeholders organized to represent key agencies and organizations.

The RFP is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed by the Commission for final approval in mid-January and released to bidders in late January using the State of Iowa procurement

process. Bidders will be invited to attend a bidder's conference, after the RFP is released, providing the opportunity for bidders to ask questions about the RFP prior to submitting the final information. The Commission's goal of the RFP process is to demonstrate transparency and openness.

The Commission plans to submit a recommendation to the Governor's Office after evaluating responses received. Prior to any Network sale or lease, the action must be approved by the legislature and the Governor during the 2014 legislative session.

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing lowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.



Employee Spotlight: Dave Augspurger

Dave Augspurger has been with the ICN for 14 years and currently works as a Telecommunications Engineer for the outside plant (OSP) division. He has previously held the positions of Program Planner and Telecommunications Design Specialist within the ICN. Dave's primary duties include managing the installation, repair, and maintenance of the fiber-optic cable throughout the state. He works with vendors and contractors to ensure the safety and reliability of the Network. He also helps maintain the GIS (Geographic Information System) and CAD (computer-aided design) databases that

document over 3,500 miles of fiber and related splicing and termination information.

Dave says the best part of his job is the unique challenges presented by each OSP project that always keep him looking for more effective ways to do his job. Dozens of people use the systems and databases that document the fiber Network, to manage the network on a daily basis.

Dave and his wife have two boys, ages 8 and 10, along with two dogs and a cat. He says that two of his favorite memories involve the adoption of his first son and the birth of his second.

Today, the boys keep him busy with sports, scouting, school, and general orneriness. When he's not chasing after them, he loves reading, home improvement, scuba diving, cars, and cheering for the Hawkeyes.

Dave has lived in seven different states throughout his life and has been no stranger to adventure, having more than once gone diving with sharks. He still desires to travel and would like to someday see the Coliseum in Rome, the Pyramids of Egypt, and journey to the southern coast of Ireland, dive the reefs of Micronesia, and retire someplace warm when finished.

*Do you have new staff,
administrators, or
friends who might be
interested in receiving
this newsletter? Please
pass it on and have
them contact
lori.larsen@iowa.gov to
be placed on the
distribution list.*

*Remember to visit ICN's
website at
www.icn.state.ia.us
to keep updated on all ICN
related news.*



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Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

Iowa's Martin Luther King and More

January 15 & February 27, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM and 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Audience: **Grades 4-7**

You've heard of Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, and Rosa Parks, but do you know Iowa's Civil Rights heroes? Did you know Iowa schools were legally integrated in 1867, just two years after the Civil War? This session will cover many of the interesting Civil Rights activities Iowa has hosted from before the Civil War through to modern times. Encourage students to think about what's right and wrong while taking pride in their Iowa heritage.

Registration Deadline – January 11 & February 22

A Writer's Life: What It Takes to Make Your Living with Words

February 21, 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM and 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Audience: **Grades 9-12**

The life of a writer may seem glamorous: a flurry of book signings and bestseller lists or a blog with thousands of followers. For most people who make their living at writing, though the career means deadlines, attention to detail, and consistent work to build and communicate with an audience. The great part about writing is that it takes so many forms. Reporters, novelists, copywriters and bloggers all make their living from writing, yet they may have very different personalities. Writing as a career path allows you to use your creativity, imagination and curiosity in ways that suit your individual strengths. Author and publisher Deb Engle will talk about what led her to be a writer (it started with a 5th grade book report) and the many ways writing can look as a career.

Registration Deadline – February 14

Iowa School Counselor Leadership Cohort

January 15, 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM
Audience: **School Counselors**

The Iowa School Counselor Leadership Cohort will be holding their first introductory meeting. Membership in this learning cohort is open to practicing school counselors who have completed the application and been accepted.

Content contact: Susen Schirmer; Professional Learning and Leadership Consultant; License Renewal Coordinator; Heartland Area Education Agency;
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Registration Deadline – January 11

For More Information About Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

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